

# Assessment of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's Performance During Covid-19 Pandemic in Ozamiz City

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## ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a newly found coronavirus that causes an infectious disease. Infected patients may develop mild to moderate respiratory infections and recover without the need for specific treatment. Barangay Tanods is at the forefront of maintaining peace and order. They are made up of civilian volunteers who protect the community from irregular forces while also demonstrating their commitment to crime prevention by acting as deterrents to criminals, particularly in places where police are scarce. The BPAT is a national program of the PNP to encourage people empowerment from the community to address the real-time response in case a need arises, be it peace and order, security, or rescue related matters. The study will utilize a descriptive type of research. A descriptive type of research accurately and systematically describes the responses of the population considered in a particular study. The results revealed that the overall performance of barangay tanod was excellent, regardless of age, educational attainment, or gender. There were no significant differences in the performance of tanods divided into different groups. On the other hand, the delivery of BPAT services for crime prevention needs to be enhanced. The goal of this research is to assess the BPAT's performance during the COVID-19 pandemic in the urban barangays in Ozamiz City, which includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Catadman in terms of patrolling, cooperation with other barangay officials, and health and safety protocol execution.

**Keywords:** *Barangay, Barangay peacekeeping action team, Covid-19, Crime prevention, Performance and patrolling.*

## Introduction

In December 2019, an unknown disease outbreak that started in Wuhan, China, turned into a global pandemic that affected the entire world (Duan & Zhu, 2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a newly found coronavirus that causes an infectious disease. Infected patients may develop mild to moderate respiratory infections and recover without the need for specific treatment (Haleem, Javaid, & Vaishya, 2020; Kwok, Lai, Wei, Wong, & Tang, 2020; Lei et al., 2020; Rasmussen & Jamieson, 2020). Barangay tanods are not exempted from the risk of COVID-19 due to being exposed to public areas. Aside from health risks, these front liners are also mistreatment subjects. The best method to avoid and slow infection is to be well educated (WHO, 2020). As of 2:45 p.m. CEST on October 22, 2020, there were 41, 104,946 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with 1,128,325 deaths, according to the WHO's dashboard (Khaliq, 2020).

Since the virus's first case was reported on January 30, 2020, the number of cases in the Philippines has risen rapidly to 391,809, with over 7,461 people affected as of November 6, 2020. (Worldometer, 2020). The country has now been included in the top 20 countries with the highest number of COVID-19 cases. Following confirmation of the initial localized transmission on March 7, the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) raised its warning to Code Red Sub-Level 1 (Madarang, 2020). President Rodrigo Duterte then signed Proclamation No. 922, which declared a public health emergency and authorized local governments to use disaster risk mitigation money. The President will be empowered to temporarily take over or direct the operations of public and private health facilities under the act (Madarang, 2020). Municipal governments are working quickly to increase access to health care, adjust budgeting strategies, and implement new public safety regulations. Local institutions are frequently the closest and most direct form of government, and they must be open, accessible, and responsive to the demands of

individuals (Madarang, 2020). To ensure proper allocation and control of funds in the event of a pandemic, towns and municipalities around the world must implement strong, open, and accountable expenditure procedures practically immediately (Madarang, 2020). Since March 16, 2020, the Philippines has been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in the installation of several kinds of lockdowns known as Enhanced Community Quarantine, General Community Quarantine, and their modified counterparts. This pandemic has become one of our community's biggest challenges, especially in our government, resulting in the loss of many Filipinos' already limited income and an exponential increase in the number of towns and individuals in need of help (Recuenco, 2020).

In this context, government and community leaders were faced with a significant task in reacting to such a disaster. Following the announcement of the first localized transmission on March 7, local officials appointed by the Department of Health are immediately responsible for distributing assistance to small businesses and individuals inclusively and transparently; they must also collaborate with national and other local governments, the private sector, and even foreign organizations to receive, monitor, and receive support (Roxas, 2020). Communities all across the world are coming together to face the problems posed by the COVID-19 danger. Local governments are at the vanguard of the fight: their leadership is not only defined by the language and speed with which they respond to the tragedy, but it also has a direct impact on their citizens' health and well-being. The way elected authorities to respond to the COVID-19 situation will have an impact on citizens' confidence and societal well-being for years to come, particularly at the municipal level (Beerman, 2020).

In every barangay, Barangay Tanods is at the forefront of maintaining peace and order. They are made up of civilian volunteers who protect the community from irregular forces while also demonstrating their commitment to crime prevention by acting as deterrents to criminals, particularly in places where police are scarce (Sumad-On, 2020). The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team is a national program of the PNP to encourage people empowerment from the community to address the real-time response in case a need arises, be it peace and order, security and rescue related matters. Barangay tanod are in the vanguard of the effort to maintain peace and order in every barangay in the country (Williams, 2001; Rochon, 2014; Pajarillo-Guadamor, 2016).

In response to President Rodrigo Duterte's call, military, and law enforcement officials, including barangay tanod officials, oversee facilitating community quarantine in various parts of the country, as well as the strict implementation of wearing face masks and face shields, as well as social distancing, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 cases (Recuenco, 2020). These factors suggest that face masks and social distances different fractions of asymptomatic individuals, as well as a realistic hypothesis of face masks protection during inhaling and exhaling, our simulations demonstrate that a synergistic use of face masks and social distancing is the most effective intervention to curb the infection spread.

To control the pandemic, our models suggest that high adherence to social distance is necessary to curb the spread of the disease, and that wearing face masks provides optimal protection even if only a small portion of the population comply with social distance. Finally, the face mask effectiveness in curbing the viral spread is not reduced if a large fraction of population is asymptomatic. Their responsibilities also include inspecting quarantine passes, managing checkpoints, and patrolling the curfew to ensure that minimal health requirements are met

(Caliwan, 2020). Police and military personnel were dispatched to ensure that these bans and safety standards were followed.

In the case of COVID-19, community collaborations, healthcare systems, local governments, and the private sector will be critical in slowing the spread, mitigating the effects, and facilitating local recovery. These collaborations promote preventive communication and behavior improvement, provide rapid short-term emergency response, reduce economic impacts, and build future resilience.

Furthermore, Beerman (2020) states that the challenges posed by the COVID-19 threat are shared by communities all over the world. Local governments are at the forefront of the fight: their leadership is not only distinguished by the language and speed with which they respond to this disaster, but it also has a direct impact on the health and well-being of their citizens. The way elected officials respond to the COVID-19 crisis will have long-term consequences for citizens' trust and societal well-being, particularly at the local level.

According to Beerman (2020), in response to emergency relief packages, cities and municipalities around the world must develop solid, open, and accountable expenditure measures almost overnight to ensure proper allocation and control of funds. Local officials are simultaneously responsible for distributing assistance to small businesses and residents in an equitable and open manner, and they must collaborate with national and other local governments, the private sector, and even foreign organizations to receive, register, and distribute medical equipment and other materials.

Furthermore, several municipal councils are working quickly to improve the availability of health care, revise budgetary policies, and implement new public safety rules.

The goal of this research is to assess the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's performance during the Covid-19 pandemic in the urban barangays in Ozamiz City that includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Tinago in terms of patrolling, cooperation with other barangay officials, and health and safety protocol execution.

## **Research Methods**

### ***Research Design***

The study utilized a descriptive type of research. Descriptive type of research accurately and systematically describes the responses of the population considered in a particular study. Further, it is a quantitative type of research that is appropriate for the assessment of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's performance during the Covid-19 pandemic in the urban barangays in Ozamiz City that includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Tinago.

### ***Research Settings***

The study was conducted in the urban barangays in Ozamiz City that includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Tinago where the total of sixty-five (65) respondents. Ozamiz is a coastal component city and one of the three cities of the province of Misamis Occidental in a region of the Philippines called Northern Mindanao. It is found in the southeastern end of the fan-shaped province, strategically located on

the eastern side of the merging point of two water bodies, the Panguil Bay and Iligan Bay. The city has a land area of 169.95 square kilometers or 65.62 square miles which constitutes 8.47% of Misamis Occidental's total area. Its population as determined by the 2020 census was 140, 334. This represents 22.73% of the total population of Misamis Occidental province, or 2.79% of the overall population of the Northern Mindanao region. Ozamiz has 51 barangays where Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Tinago included.

### ***Research Respondent***

The respondents of the study where the 65 citizens living in the community of the urban barangays in Ozamiz City, which includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex and Barangay Tinago, where the total number of the community respondent is sixty-five (65) regardless of gender and age as long as they lived in the said barangays.

### ***Research Instrument***

The study used a modified questionnaire from the study of Austria-Cruz (2020) and Donald Sumad-on (2020). The research instrument is divided into three parts. The first pertains to the profile of the respondents. The second part is adapted from the study Austria-Cruz (2020) entitled Performance of Barangay Police Officer (BPSO) or Tanod in Maintaining Peace. This part assessed the performance of the barangay tanod in terms of crime prevention, patrolling, assistance to other officials and incident response. The third part is adapted from the study of Donald Sumad-on (2020) entitled Effectiveness of Barangay Tanod in Crime Prevention in Central Region of Angadanan, Isabela. This part determined the degree of seriousness of problems encountered by the Barangay Tanod during their performance of duty. The questionnaire is composed of thirty (30) statements of Performance of barangay peacekeeping action team during covid-19 pandemic.

Scale	Response	Continuum	Interpretation
5	Always	4.20-5.00	Very Serious
4	Often	3.40-4.19	Serious
3	Sometimes	2.60-3.39	Less Serious
2	Rarely	1.80-2.59	Least Serious
1	Never	1.00-1.79	Not Serious

### ***Data Collection***

The data collection was done seriously to obtain reliable information from the identified respondents. Before the conduct of the study with the identified respondents the researcher asked permission from the Dean of the College of Criminology of the University allowing the researcher to pursue the study and to distribute the questioner through a formal letter. Once the approval from the Dean is obtained, the researcher asked permission from the barangay captain in Barangay Carmen Annex, Barangay Aguada and Barangay Tinago in allowing the researcher to identify the respondent. The researchers personally administer the survey questionnaire to the target respondents after receiving permission and setting an appointment with the identified respondents, as well as proposing the day

of distribution of the questionnaire. Afterward, the information gathered was recorded, evaluated, and interpreted accordingly and during the survey, the minimum health protocol was also observed.

### ***Ethical Consideration***

The researchers observed ethical procedures in the conduct of the study. Permission was sought from the Barangay Captain in Carmen Annex, Aguada and Tinago Ozamiz City to allow the researchers to administer the survey questionnaire to the Community.

Confidentiality of the gathered data was ensured for each of the respondents. Any communication relating to the research was conducted in an honest transparent manner, and any types of misleading information, as well as biased representation of primary data findings, were avoided.

Thus, no harm was brought to the mentally, emotionally, and physically, regarding the conduct of the study. Both the researcher and the respondent followed the minimum health protocol.

### ***Statistical Treatment of Data***

The following tools and means were used to apply, organize, classify, analyze and interpret the data and information collected these are the:

Frequency refers to the tabular arrangement of the data by classes or categories together with their corresponding frequency.

Weighted mean will be used in determining the final weight of each item in the questionnaire of the assessment of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's performance during Covid-19 pandemic in Ozamiz City.

## **Results And Discussion**

### ***Assessment of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's Performance during Covid-19 Pandemic in Ozamiz City***

**Table 1.** Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondent's Profile

Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
16-29 years old	40	61.54
30-48 years old	17	26.15
50-63 years old	8	12.31
	65	100.00
Gender		
Male	40	61.54

Female	25	38.46
	65	100.00
Place of Residence		
Carmen Annex	10	15.38
Tinago	15	23.08
Aguada	40	61.54
Total	65	100.00

Table 1 shows of Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondent's Profile residing in Barangay Carmen Annex, Tinago and Aguada, the majority of them are male about 61.54% of the respondents belong to the age range of 16-63 years old. This simply means that the male respondents are aware of the barangay tanod's ability to carry out their duties and responsibilities in their barangay in terms of patrolling, crime prevention, incident response, assistance to other officials and most importantly, the challenges of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team that they are facing right now despite of this COVID-19 (Orenze, Coballes & Ferrer, 2021).

**Table 2.** Extent of Participation in Patrolling

Statements	AWV	Continuum Response
1. Conducts patrol/ronda at daytime.	4.83	Always
2. Conducts patrol/ronda at nighttime.	4.77	Always
3. Patrols are assisted by Brgy. Officials.	4.78	Always
4. In times of patrol/ronda, they use their weapons and equipment.	4.38	Always
5. Conducts patrol even during a serious outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.	4.57	Always
General Weighted Mean	4.66	Always

Based on Table 2 of Patrolling in the Barangay, by conducting patrol/ronda at daytime as well as during night time, patrols are assisted by brgy. Officials, in times of patrol/ronda, they use their weapons and equipment and conducts patrol even during a serious outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic got the general weighted mean of 4.66 despite the lack of weapons and equipment since in Ozamiz City there is a lower crime committed within the barangay. According to the Koper curve theory (Koper,1995), crime is less likely to occur in certain hot zones where police presence is visible.

This implies that patrolling is effective to maintain the security of the area and prevent the opportunity to commit a crime within the barangay through patrolling it.

**Table 3.** Extent of Participation in Crime Prevention

Statements	AWV	Continuum Response
Visits residences and places of business.	3.86	Often
Within the barangays/puroks, conducts surveillance on criminal breeding areas.	4.54	Always
Examine any suspicious activity or locations.	4.49	Always
Keep a close eye on people.	4.54	Always
Reports any observation/findings they gathered to the proper authorities or through the Hotline “117”	4.6	Often
General Weighted Mean	4.41	Always

Table 3 presents the data on Crime Prevention. The data revealed that barangay tanod often examine any suspicious activity or locations; keeping a close eye on people; and often conducts surveillance on criminal breeding areas within the barangay/puroks, the three statements earned the highest weighted average which constitutes 4.54, 4.49 and 4.54 percent. Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team perform crime prevention in Ozamiz City to ensure the security of the people in their respective barangay. On the other hand, barangay tanod visits residences and places of business and reports any observation/findings they gather to the proper authorities or through the Hotline 117 got the lowest weighted mean of 3.86 and 4.6 with the remarks often because barangay tanod said that visiting residences and places of business is not their responsibility. It's the police work to assist in reducing the opportunity for crime in residences and places of business. According to (Shoemaker, 1996), juvenile courts and penal facilities are employed less frequently than the juvenile code would predict, and this scenario is likely to remain due to a lack of resources, conventional socialization techniques, and the value of the barrio justice system. Several businesses have already begun to implement initiatives aimed at motivating the public, even at the barangay level, to assist reduce rising crime rates (Samaniego, 2015).

This implies that crime prevention **enhances the quality of life of all citizens of a barangay because of having an effective relationship and effort to be one within the community and having a program to control the community from committing criminal activity.**

**Table 4.** Extent of Participation in Incident Response

Statements	AWV	Continuum Response
1. They respond as soon as possible to incidents that occur while on duty.	4.63	Always



2. Alert and report the incidents to their barangay's central units concerned or through the "117" hotline.	4.48	Always
3. Responds in any natural calamity (typhoon, floods, earthquake).	4.72	Always
4. The Philippine National Police (PNP) assisted them in resolving a riot/rumble in their barrio.	4.58	Always
5. Reports the accused and suspected offenders in their barangay to the authorities (Brgy. Officials, PNP).	4.69	Always
General Weighted Mean	4.62	Always

Based on Table 4 of Incident Response, barangay tanod reports the accused and suspected offenders in their barangay to the authorities (Brgy. Officials, PNP), they respond as soon as possible to incidents that occur while on duty, alert and report the incidents to their barangay's central units concerned or through the "117" hotline. Responds in any natural calamity (typhoon, floods, earthquake) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) assisted them in resolving a riot/rumble in their barrio got the highest general weighted mean of 4.62 even though 117 is they are no longer using this hotline number instead they are using walkie talkie radio and cellphone number (Stroie & Rusu, 2011).

This implies that responding immediately to an incident will aid an organization in minimizing damages, mitigating exploited vulnerabilities, restoring services and procedures, and lowering the risks of future incidents.

**Table 5.** Extent of Participation in Assistance to other Officials

Statements	AWV	Continuum Response
1. Assist the barangay officials in enforcing the barangay's regulations and administrative code.	4.48	Always
2. Assistance to the administrative officers of the barangay in enforcing the barangay's regulations and administrative code.	5.26	Always
3. Conducts planned and strategic methods to be used to ensure the safety of the people.	4.48	Always
4. Follows the barangay officials' orders to ensure the safety of the people in their barangay.	4.77	Always
5. Assists the Barangay Officials in preventing crime and maintaining order in the Barangay.	4.51	Always
General Weighted Mean	4.7	Often



Based on Table 5 of Assistance to other officials, assistance to the administrative officers of the barangay in enforcing the barangay's regulations and administrative code, assistance to the administrative officers of the barangay in enforcing the barangay's regulations and administrative code, conducts planned and strategic methods to be used to ensure the safety of the people, follows the barangay officials' orders to ensure the safety of the people in their barangay and assists the Barangay Officials in preventing crime and maintaining order in the Barangay got the highest weighted mean with the remarks of Always because enforcing the barangay's regulations and administrative code is to control and improve the efficiency of resource allocation of the barangay (Yilmaz & Venugopal, 2013).

This implies that assistance to other officials support each other to lead the barangay efficiently and provide legal basis for the community because when there is unity among every official the community is also united, and this is a sign that your leadership is effective.

**Table 6.** Degree of Challenges Encountered

Statements	AWV	Continuum Response
Lack of vehicle when conducting patrol.	3.02	Less Serious
Insufficient training like self-defense techniques.	2.88	Less Serious
Insufficient equipment like baton, handcuff, and other use for crime prevention.	2.68	Less Serious
Insufficient budget support.	3.4	Less Serious
Barangay Tanod does not report on scheduled duty.	2.77	Less Serious
Some Barangay Tanod are absent during scheduled duty.	3.06	Less Serious
Lack of cooperation among members of the Barangay Tanod.	2.74	Less Serious
Insufficient supervision and monitoring from Barangay Officials.	2.94	Less Serious
Lack of cooperation among the residents.	2.55	Least Serious
Barangay Tanod are not aware on duties and responsibilities.	2.54	Least Serious
General Weighted Mean	2.85	Less Serious

Based on table 6, the community encountered that barangay Tanod has insufficient budget support got the highest weighted mean of 3.4 with the remarks of Less Serious because here in Ozamiz City the mayor gives enough budget fairly in all organizations/agencies for them to work efficiently besides the barangay tanod are aware of their duties and responsibilities although not all tanod have knowledge on how to perform their work effectively.

This implies that these challenges should have solutions in order for the barangay tanod to perform their duties and responsibilities. Also, the government should build an institution regarding self-defense for the barangay tanod for them to learn some techniques on how to protect themselves.

**Table 7.** Significant difference in the assessment of the level of performance of the Barangay Tanod when the respondents are grouped according to their profile.

Profile	Chi-Square	P-value	Decision
Gender	4.68	.321734	Not Significant
Age	11.7786	.16136	Not Significant
Place of Residence	2.221	.973474	Not Significant

Table 7 presents the significant difference in the assessment of the level of performance of the barangay tanod when they are grouped according to profile.

It is evident that there is no significant difference on the assessment of the level of performance of barangay tanod when they are grouped according to their gender having a chi-square value of 4.68 and a p-value of .321734. The result further signifies that the perception of the respondents towards the performance of barangay tanod does not affect considering their gender.

On the other hand, there is no significant difference on the assessment of the level of performance of barangay tanod when they are grouped according to their age having a chi-square value of 11.7786 and a p-value of .16136. The result signifies that the age of the respondents does not affect their perception towards the performance of the barangay tanod.

Moreover, there is no significant difference on the assessment of the level of performance of barangay tanod when they are grouped according to their place of residence. The result signifies that the place of residence of the respondents does not affect their perception towards the performance of the barangay tanod.

## Conclusions

Based on the study's findings, the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team's in the urban barangays of Ozamiz City includes the following: Barangay Aguada, Barangay Carmen Annex, and Barangay Tinago are active in responding to COVID-19 in terms of patrolling, cooperation with other barangay officials, and health and safety protocol execution even though they are unprepared and have a lack of knowledge and experience. They still managed to respond to COVID-19 proactively and reactively in a systematic and flexible manner. The overall performance of barangay tanod was excellent, regardless of age, educational attainment, or gender. There were no significant differences in the performance of tanods divided into different groups. This shows that tanods have great confidence in their ability to govern and perform their tasks well. Furthermore, they have the same performance or accomplishment as law enforcers in the barangays. In Ozamiz City, community satisfaction with Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team performance is very excellent. The delivery of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team services for crime prevention, on the other hand, needs to be enhanced. For Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team

members, providing adequate facilities, equipment, and training like self-defense techniques in crime prevention may be beneficial. Local government officials and the PNP should also explore what further assistance they may provide to Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team. The challenges they have encountered did not hinder them from becoming resilient in response to COVID-19.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study it is recommended that:

1. Local Government Unit should give an award the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team incentives or certificates of recognition, appreciation, or praise in order to promote morale and motivate them to fulfil their duties and responsibilities efficiently.
2. Philippine National Police should be the trainer of the Barangay Tanod with regard to self-defense and morale development and must consider the involvement of academic institutions or training institutions as one of the serious problems confronted.
3. The local government officials should raise the tanod's monthly wage as part of motivating them to focus on their responsibilities and functions, as some of the causes of the barangay tanod's failure to be on time during duty, some being missing, and lack of budget support, which is classified as a major encountered problem.
4. The Department of Interior and Local Government shall upgrade the benefits and incentives of barangay tanod members who have rendered at least one year of service in the barangay government.

### **Declarations**

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#### **Competing Interests Statement**

The authors declare no competing financial, professional and personal interests.

#### **Consent for publication**

Authors declare that they consented for the publication of this research work.

#### **Authors' Contributions**

All authors equally contributed in data collection, research and paper drafting.

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